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LOFTUS  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
AND THE  
PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY

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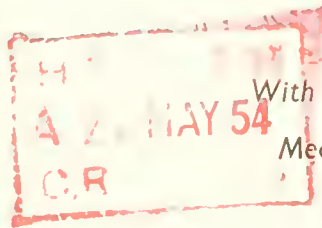
REPORTS  
for the Year 1953

of the Medical Officer of Health  
W. H. BUTCHER, V.R.D., M.A.,  
D.M., D.P.H., BARRISTER - AT - LAW,  
SURGEON COMMANDER R.N.V.R.

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NORTH RIDING OF YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
GUISBOROUGH AREA LOCAL HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE  
AND THE URBAN DISTRICTS OF GUISBOROUGH  
SKELTON & BROTON & LOFTUS-IN-CLEVELAND



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*With the Compliments of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
and  
Assistant County Medical Officer*

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BROTON,  
Saltburn,  
Yorkshire

Telephone  
BROTON 256

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS  
OF THE  
LOFTUS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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MADAM CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my seventh Annual Report for the year 1953, the contents and arrangements of which are in accordance with Circular 1/54 of the Ministry of Health.

I would like at the outset to record my thanks to Madam Chairman and the members of the Health Committee for their encouragement throughout the year.

To Mr. T. C. Ellison I am again obliged for his co-operation at all times. Mr. E. Hollis on all occasions has given me his unstinted help in all matters concerning the health of the District.

Finally I wish to thank the two clerical officers, Miss M. Imeson and Miss J. Waite, who working in the Area Health Office have contributed materially to the smooth conduct of affairs.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. H. BUTCHER,

Medical Officer of Health.

BROTON,

30th April, 1954.

**TABLE 1****Public Health Officers**

Whole Time Officers	Guisborough Urban District	Skelton & Brotton Urban District	Loftus Urban District
Medical Officer of Health who is also Ass. County Medical Officer No. 4 Area N.R.C.C. and School Medical Officer, N.R.C.C.	Dr. W. H. Butcher		
Sanitary Inspectors	Mr. J. A. Thompson* (resigned 31/10/53)	Mr. J. Pattison	Mr. E. Hollis*
Additional Sanitary Inspectors	Mr. E. Ward		

\*Also Surveyor of the district concerned

**SECTION I****Vital Statistics and Social Conditions**

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population of the district in the mid-year 1953 is 7,604, as compared with one of 7,543 for the mid-year 1952

**General Statistics**

I am indebted to the Financial Officer of the Council for the following figures:—

1. Area of the District in acres	....	....	9,974
2. No. of inhabited houses according to the rate books			2,533
3. Rateable Value	....	....	£31,373
4. Sum represented by a penny rate	....	....	£118

The District consists of the neat town of Loftus, the industrial communities of Skinningrove and of part of Carlin How and the hamlets of Liverton, Scaling, Easington, Street Houses and Cowbar. Gentle wooded ravines, the griffs of the Danish settlers, intersect rolling uplands studded with farms that reach northwards to the height of 699 feet at Boulby, or Rockcliff, the highest headland in England and Wales; southwards the fields merge with the moors at a height of nigh on a 1,000 feet. The principal industries to-day are the great Skinningrove Iron and Steel Works, and Agriculture. The Alum workings on Rockcliff, to which once Loftus owed its prosperity, ceased to be operated nearly a century ago; and now of the ironstone mines only one is worked; while inshore fishing has practically ceased as a means of livelihood.

**TABLE 2—Vital Statistics**

CAUSES OF DEATH			MALE	FEMALE
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	....	....	1	—
Tuberculosis, other	....	....	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	....	....	—	—
Diphtheria	....	....	—	—
Whooping Cough	....	....	—	—
Meningo-coccal infections	....	....	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	....	....	—	—
Measles	....	....	—	—
Other infective and parasitic Diseases			—	—
Malignant neoplasm of stomach	....	....	—	1
Malignant neoplasm of lung, bronchus			3	—
Malignant neoplasm of breast	....	....	—	1
Malignant neoplasm of uterus	....	....	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms			4	2
Leukaemia	....	....	—	—
Diabetes	....	....	—	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	....	....	10	7
Coronary disease, angina	....	....	3	1
Hypertension with heart disease	....	....	—	—
Other heart diseases	....	....	—	6
Other circulatory diseases	....	....	—	1
Influenza	....	....	1	—
Pneumonia	....	....	6	—
Bronchitis	....	....	6	—
Other diseases of respiratory system			1	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	....	....	2	—
Gastro-enteritis and diarrhoea	....	....	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	....	....	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	....	....	2	—
Pregnancy, child-birth, abortion	....	....	—	—
Congenital malformations	....	....	—	—
Other defined or ill-defined diseases			4	1
Motor Vehicle accidents....	....	....	1	—
All other accidents	....	....	2	—
Suicide	....	....	—	1
Homicide and operations of war	....	....	—	—
ALL CAUSES	....	....	47	24

## Deaths

The deaths are classified under the thirty-six headings based on the Abbreviated List of International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death 1948. 71 deaths of residents gave a death-rate of 9.3 per thousand of population; allowing for different age and sex distribution the comparable death-rate is 9.4 compared to 11.4 for England and Wales. Table 2 shows clearly what killed people in Loftus in 1953.

**TABLE 3**

### Vital Statistics

		MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Live Births	....	56	66	122
Legitimate	....	54	65	119
Illegitimate	....	2	1	3
<hr/>				
Still Births	....	—	1	1
Legitimate	....	—	1	1
Illegitimate	....	—	—	—

### Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

			MALE		FEMALE
Total	....	....	3	....	1
Legitimate	....	....	3	....	1
Illegitimate	....	....	—	....	—

## Births

The number of births registered in the district during the year was 122, giving a birth-rate of 16 per thousand of the population, or a corrected one of 16.48 as compared with 15.5 for England and Wales. Four infants under the age of one year died, giving an infantile mortality rate of 32.7 per thousand live births compared with one of 26.8 for England and Wales. One of the infants who died was under four weeks of age.

## SECTION II

### Infectious Diseases

Table 4 shows the incidence of the notifiable infectious diseases as notified except tuberculosis. I observe that 6 people died of pneumonia, but only 3 cases were notified.

TABLE 4

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1953

(other than Tuberculosis)

	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 year	2	3	4	5—	10—	15—	25—	35—	45—	65—	Age un- known
Scarlet Fever	3	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Measles	6	—	—	1	—	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	20	2	3	3	3	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

## Tuberculosis

Three new cases of respiratory tuberculosis and one case of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year.

**TABLE 5**  
**Tuberculosis**

AGE GROUPS Years		RESPIRATORY FORM		NON-RESPIRATORY FORM	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
0 to 4	....	—	—	—	—
5 to 9	....	—	—	—	—
10 to 14	....	—	—	—	1
15 to 19	....	—	—	—	—
20 to 24	....	—	—	—	—
25 to 44	....	—	2	—	—
45 to 54	....	—	1	—	—
55 to 64	....	—	—	—	—
65 to 74	....	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	....	—	3	—	1

There was 1 death from this cause.

The co-operation with the Chest Physician, Dr. L. Rowley, is satisfactory; the contacts are supervised by the health visitors of the Local Health Authority; children among the contacts are subjected to the tuberculin diagnostic jelly test; when necessary contacts are X-rayed. Mr. Hollis, the Sanitary Inspector, reports on their housing accommodation. Finally, the Local Sanitary Authority is sympathetic towards rehousing such cases as I recommend.

## Immunization

At the end of 1952 a prophylactic was introduced for use in infants with a view to giving protection at the same time against both diphtheria and whooping cough.

**TABLE 6**  
**Immunizations against diphtheria or Whooping Cough and Diphtheria**

UNDER 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	TOTAL
COMPLETED IMMUNIZATIONS							
27	40	5	2	—	8	2	84
REINFORCING DOSES							
—	—	—	—	—	155	24	179

Immunization was available to children at the hands of the family doctor, or at the school clinic of the Education Authority at Carlin How, and at the infant welfare centres of the Local Health Authority at Carlin How, and Loftus. Reinforcing doses were given at the schools by myself to children who had been immunized earlier in life. All children under the age of one year whom I immunize myself receive the combined prophylactic against both diphtheria and whooping cough.



Regarding protection against smallpox, 34 persons received primary vaccinations and 7 were revaccinated making a total of 41.

These figures indicate that our efforts to educate the public in making use of modern methods to avoid disease are becoming less effective for fewer in 1953 made use of all the facilities available. I can quite understand that the public are little interested in smallpox and diphtheria since these diseases are not prevalent in Cleveland, but whooping cough recurs with monotonous regularity; it is in some cases a crippling and in most cases a trying visitor to the household; I would, therefore, have imagined that more mothers would have gladly availed themselves of the new method of protection of their infants.

### **SECTION III**

#### **The General Provision of Health Services in the District**

##### **1. Laboratory Facilities.**

This work is now done entirely at the Public Health Laboratory, Middlesbrough, only the biological test for tuberculous milk being carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Northallerton. The service that I received from the latter under its Director, Dr. D. G. J. Payne, was always of the best; at the same time the transfer to Middlesbrough has been of great advantage to me. Specimens can be transported there much more quickly and conveniently; the same convenience of access applies to my consultations with its Director, Dr. R. Blowers, whom I thank for his helpful co-operation on all occasions.

##### **2. National Health Service Act, 1946.**

With certain exceptions the Guisborough Area Health Sub-Committee of the Health Committee of the County Council exercises the functions of the Local Health Authority in supervising the day to day administration of the services provided under this Act. The Committee meets once a month in rotation at Guisborough, Skelton and Loftus. It is composed of members of the County Council, of the three District Councils of Guisborough, Skelton and Brotton, and Loftus, and of certain co-opted members. Among the services administered are the following :—

- Domestic Help Service.
- Prevention of illness : Care and After Care.
- Ambulance Service.
- Vaccination and Immunization.
- Home Nursing.
- Health Visiting.
- Midwifery.
- Care of Mothers and Young Children.

A comprehensive programme of clinical work with a preventative and educative outlook is carried out at the Centres and Clinics of the Local Health Authority throughout the District.

### 3. **Guisborough Area Voluntary Care Committee.**

I would like to record the useful work done by this Body for the welfare of persons suffering from tuberculosis and other illnesses. Whereas in connection with the welfare of the tuberculous the Committee has certain funds allocated to it, for the welfare of other sufferers it depends entirely on voluntary contributions. Enquiries and requests for assistance may be made to the Honorary Secretary, Area Health Office, Brotton, Saltburn (Telephone : Brotton 256).

### 4. **National Assistance Acts 1948 and 1951. Section 47.**

It was unnecessary during the year to make use of this Section; in the end persuasion was effective in all cases.

## **SECTION IV**

### **WATER SUPPLIES**

#### 1. **Cleveland Water Company.**

During the year 11 samples of the water supplied to consumers by the Cleveland Water Company were taken by me; of these, 10 samples were found to be Class 1, i.e. waters of the highest degree of bacterial purity, and 1 sample Class 3.

One sample was submitted for chemical analysis, the results which show a water of the highest degree of purity are given below.

**TABLE 7**

#### **Chemical Results in parts per million**

Date 11/8/53

Appearance — Very faint opalescence with a few mineral particles.

			Turbidity	....	Less than 3
Colour — Filtered	....	8	Odour	....	Nil
pH	....	7.2	Free Carbon Dioxide	....	4
Electric Conductivity	....	170	Total Solids	....	115
Chlorine present as Chloride	....	18	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate		40
Hardness : Total	....	65	Carbonate 40    Non-Carbonate		25
Nitrate Nitrogen	....	0.0	Nitrite Nitrogen Approx.	....	0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	....	0.059	Oxygen absorbed	....	1.4
Albuminoid Nitrogen	....	0.036	Residual Chlorine	....	Absent
Metals : Iron	....	0.10	Other metals absent		

With the prospect that the new reservoir at Scaling will be completed within the next few years three outstanding matters should be capable of rectification; these are :—

- (a) the provision of a public water supply to communities such as Liverton where supplies are unsatisfactory.
- (b) the abolition of standpipes throughout the built-up parts of the districts.
- (c) The abolition of pail closets throughout the built-up parts of the district.

## 2. Whitby Rural District Water Supply.

This now supplies the hamlet of Scaling. While bacteriological the water is Class 1, the chemical analysis given in Table 9 shows that the water will be corrosive towards metals and plumbo-solvent.

**TABLE 8**

### Whitby Rural Water Supply

#### Chemical Results in parts per million.

Colour Filtered	....	....	30	Turbidity	....	Less than 3
pH	....	....	6.9	Odour	....	Nil
Electric Conductivity	....	....	85	Free Carbon Dioxide	....	a trace
Chlorine present as Chloride	....	....	10	Total Solids	....	55
Hardness : Total	....	....	20	Carbonate 10	Non-carbonate	10
Nitrate Nitrogen	....	....	0.0	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	....	10
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	....	....	0.036	Nitrite Nitrogen	....	Absent
Albuminoid Nitrogen	....	....	0.038	Oxygen Absorbed	....	1.6
Metals : Iron	....	....	0.44	Residual Chlorine	....	Absent
Other metals absent.						

Of the 2,533 houses 1,714 are supplied into the dwellings from the mains of the Cleveland Water Company, the statutory water undertaking; 328 into the dwellings from the mains of the Zetland Estates (South Loftus), of the Downe Estates (Liverton Mines) and of the Whitby Rural District Council; and 203 by means of standpipes. The remaining 288 derive their water from wells, streams or various small supplies serving a few houses.

During the year the supplies to East Loftus and North Road were greatly improved in quantity by the Cleveland Water Co. ; thus the cause of recurring complaints was removed.

## SECTION V

### Inspection and Supervision of Food

#### Milk.

The following samples of milk were taken by me and submitted to the necessary chemical and bacteriological examinations. The results are shown below :—

TABLE 9

Type of Milk	No. of Samples	Passed statutory tests for cleanliness	Failed the same	Biological test shows infection with tuberculosis	Brucellus Abortus found
Undesignated ....	2	1	1	—	—
Tuberculin Tested	10	9	1	—	—
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) ....	1	1	—	—	—
Pasteurised ....	10	10	—	—	—

I received a complaint from a lady regarding a reddish brown discolouration that recurred repeatedly on cream collected by her from the top milk of bottles of pasteurised milk. The cream was stored in a cool clean larder facing the garden. The matter was investigated by Dr. Blowers and myself. The brown colour was due to chromo-bacteria or in other words coloured germs. These are often present in soil, water and air; the colour of the cream was due to airborne contamination with these bacteria during its storage. They are perfectly harmless; the remedy is to cover the cream completely or consume it sooner.

There are in all thirteen distributors or producer-distributors.

#### Food Poisoning Outbreaks

No outbreak of food poisoning was notified to me throughout the year.

#### Bakehouses

There are two bakehouses used in the district. Five inspections of these were carried out.

#### Fish Frying

There are ten fish frying premises in the district. These were inspected on thirty two occasions.

## Ice Cream

There are sixteen premises registered for the sale of this foodstuff; none is manufactured in the district.

## Byelaws

Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938 for securing the observance of Sanitary and Cleanly Practices and Conditions in connection with the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the open air.

## Section 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949

No action was necessary under the above during the year.

## SECTION VI—Housing

I am indebted to Mr. E. Hollis, your Sanitary Inspector, for the figures produced in the table below.

**TABLE 10**  
**Housing Statistics**

### *New houses erected in 1953*

(a) By the Council	....	....	....	....	125
(b) Other	....	....	....	....	3

### 1. *Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year*

(1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	....	....	109
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	....	....	132
(2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	....	....	7
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	....	....	12
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	....	....	16
(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	....	....	93

### 2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices*

(1) Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	....	....	39
(2) Number of dwelling-houses where work is in progress but not yet completed	....	....	4
(3) Number of Notices in course of preparation (not yet served)	....	....	—
(4) Number of Notices outstanding	....	....	4



**Table 10—Housing Statistics—continued.**

3. <i>Action under Statutory Powers during the year</i>				
A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936				
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs			16
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of formal notices			
(a)	By Owners			12
(b)	By local authority in default of owners			—
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts				
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied			60
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices			
(a)	By owners			58
(b)	By local authority in default of owners			—
C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936				
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made			—
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders			—
D. Proceedings under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936				
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made			—
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit			—
4. <i>Housing Act, 1935, Part 4, Overcrowding</i>				
(1)	(a)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year		13
	(b)	Number of families dwelling therein		20
	(c)	Number of persons dwelling therein		88
(2)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year			11
(3)	(a)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year		14
	(b)	Number of persons concerned in such cases		105
(4)	Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding			—

## SECTION VII

### Sanitary Circumstances of the District

I give below a table of some of the sanitary work done during the year by your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. E. Hollis.

**TABLE 11**  
**Nuisance Inspections**

Total number of inspections made for nuisances only (not including housing inspections)				415
Nuisances found	....	93	Total needing abatement	.... 103
Nuisances in hand, end of			Abated during year	.... 97
previous year	....	10	Outstanding at end of year	6
Notices served, informal		43	Complied with	.... 39
Notices served, statutory		60	Complied with	.... 58
Number of summonses or other legal proceedings			....	.... Nil

#### Regulated Buildings, Trades, etc.

There are no common lodging houses, houses let in lodgings, knackers yards or tents, vans and sheds in the district.

#### Byelaws in force in the District

Building Byelaws, 21st August, 1953.

#### Closet Accommodation

There are 98 privies with fixed receptacles and 300 pail closets in the district. In addition, there are 2,037 water closets. Eleven pail closets were reconstructed as W.C.'s. 128 water closets were constructed for new houses. The Council allows a grant of £3/10/- per conversion of privies or pail closets to water closets.

#### Scavenging

Public scavenging is in operation throughout the district. The refuse is disposed of by means of tipping. Steps to improve the tip are being taken by the Council.

#### Shops Act, 1934, Sections 10 and 13

Twenty-six visits were paid under the above section. Unsatisfactory conditions were found in two instances and remedied.

#### Drainage and Sewerage

There is no sewage disposal works in the district, the sewage being discharged into the sea. A sewerage scheme for Cowbar is before the Ministry.

#### Skinningrove Iron and Steel Company Ltd.

Throughout the year from time to time there were considerable emissions of dust from the tippler and the crusher while at times the industrial haze over Carlin How and Skinningrove was oppressive. Certain improvements have been carried out by the Company and others are in contemplation. The matter is under observation both by the Local Sanitary Authority and by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

## SECTION VIII : Factories Act, 1937 and 1948

The following figures have been returned to the Director of Statistics, Ministry of Labour and National Service, regarding factories in the district.

**TABLE 13**

### 1. Inspections for the purposes of provision as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector)

Premises	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(I) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	23	32	—	—
(II) Factories int included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	—	—	—	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	1 (Building Sites)	21	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	24	53	—	—

### 2. Cases in which defects were found

	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	7	7	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	1	1	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	2	2	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	1	1	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	11	11	—	—

### Report to the Port Sanitary Authority for the year 1953

I beg to state that during the year no vessel entered or left the Port of Skinningrove









